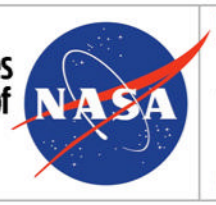
MULTI AWARD WINNING!

SCIENCE + ANIMALS + PUZZLES + PEOPLE + ARTS + PHOTOS + BOOKS + SPORTS + NEPTUNE THE LOBSTER

THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

NEWS
US welcomes latest class of astronauts
p4



ARTS
Famous fairy tale revisited
p23

SCIENCE
New way to help honeybees
p16

October 10, 2025 • Vol. 6, Issue 286 • $5.99

Making sense of the world

THE WEEK Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

FIND YOUR NEXT EXCITING READ!

Celebrate National Book Month with our special section and discover titles you'll love p12

HOME BASE
Completed in 1952, the UN headquarters in New York City consists of 18 acres built along the banks of the East River.

A meeting of the UN General Assembly on September 22

The UN's mission

UN headquarters

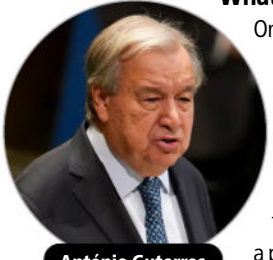
The United Nations was created in 1945, after World War II ended. Its ongoing mission is to maintain international peace and security, develop relationships among nations, and foster collaboration to solve collective problems such as human rights, humanitarian crises, disease, and climate change.

Global leaders gather at UN

More than 140 world leaders and officials came together at the United Nations (UN) headquarters in New York City from September 22 to 29 for the organization's annual General Assembly meeting, which is called the General Debate. This year's gathering marked the UN's 80th anniversary and came as the world grappled with several wars and rising tensions in the Middle East and Europe.

What is the meeting?

The UN is a group of 193 countries that focuses on global issues (see box above), and the General Assembly (UNGA) is its main group, whose members meet to debate issues and make decisions. The UNGA begins its annual session with the General Debate every year, and leaders of member nations speak on various issues. Leaders also hold behind-the-scenes meetings to conduct negotiations and focus on urgent matters.



António Guterres

How did the meeting begin?

The first day of speakers began on September 23 with UN Secretary General António Guterres setting out five "critical choices" for governments: peace over war, protecting human rights, climate justice, artificial intelligence and other technology that works on behalf of humanity, and a stronger UN. "The world needs...our vision to unite nations, bridge divides, and confront the challenges before us," Guterres said. Leaders from many countries, including France, Suriname, South Africa, and South Korea, also called for international cooperation. "We today must cooperate more, trust more, and join hands more firmly, in order to build a better future, a better world for future generations," said South Korean president Lee Jae Myung. US President Donald Trump, who also spoke on September 23, questioned the effectiveness of the UN in today's world.

What was discussed?

One major topic of discussion was the war between Israel and Hamas, which has been fought in Gaza, a Palestinian territory, since October 2023. Many nations called for an end to the fighting and a return to discussions that could lead to a peace agreement. The day before the General Debate began, Australia, the UK, and Canada became some of the latest countries to formally recognize Palestine as an independent state that includes Gaza and another Palestinian territory, the West Bank. At the UNGA meeting on September 22, France announced that it had joined them. Although most UN member nations recognize Palestinian statehood, Israel and the US are opposed to it.

On September 24, a Syrian president spoke at the General Debate for the first time since 1967. Previous presidents from Syria were not invited to speak because they were dictators (rulers with total power). Ahmed al-Sharaa, who became president in December, said Syria was rebuilding itself. The same day, Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelensky, called on world leaders to help his country in its war with Russia, which began in 2022. Also on September 24, China offered its first detailed plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to fight climate change. The nation, which leads the world in emissions, said it would cut pollution by 7% to 10% by 2035. Officials from many countries met to discuss ending a civil war in Sudan that began in 2023. It has caused the world's worst humanitarian crisis, with nearly 13 million people displaced and more than 24 million needing aid.

What will happen next?

When *The Week Junior* went to press on September 30, Trump had announced a proposal for peace between Israel and Hamas. Israel had agreed to it, but Hamas had not yet responded. The General Debate had ended, but UNGA countries were set to continue discussing issues raised at the meeting.

FIFA mascots are revealed

On September 25, FIFA (the global governing body for soccer) announced three mascots for the 2026 World Cup. Maple the Moose, Zayu the Jaguar, and Clutch the Bald Eagle will represent the tournament's three host countries: Canada, Mexico, and the US.

The tournament, the world's largest soccer competition, takes place every four years and is hosted by different countries each time. In 2026, a total of 48 teams from around the globe will compete at venues across the three North American countries. The first match kicks off on June 11, 2026, in Mexico.

FIFA said the mascots celebrate the culture of each country. Maple, a goalkeeper, roams Canada's landscape and enjoys its people. Zayu, a striker, represents Mexico's dance, food, and traditions. Clutch is a midfielder who symbolizes the curiosity and optimism of the US. "Maple, Zayu, and Clutch are full of joy, energy, and the spirit of togetherness, just like the FIFA World Cup itself," said Gianni Infantino, the president of FIFA.

Maple, Zayu, and Clutch

SPECIAL COLOR

Since the 1990s, the international symbol of mental health awareness has been a green ribbon.

Focusing on mental health helps people get the support they need.

World Mental Health Day marked

Across the globe, World Mental Health Day will be observed on October 10. The day was created in 1992 by the World Federation for Mental Health and is led by the World Health Organization (WHO). The goal is to raise awareness about mental health and encourage people to take action to improve care and support.

Mental health is how people think, feel, and behave. Everyone feels sad or worried at times, but if those feelings last a long time, they can become more serious. Depression is feeling sad and losing interest in activities you usually enjoy. Anxiety is constant worry or fear. One in five people experience mental health issues, and experts say it's important to get help and support one another.

The theme of this year's World Mental Health Day is "Access to Services—Mental Health in Catastrophes and Emergencies." It highlights the need for mental health support during times of crisis, such as natural disasters, pandemics, or war. The WHO offers guidelines for workers, doctors, and relief teams helping in these situations.

This year, a World Mental Health Day Festival will bring together leaders, mental health experts, and celebrities to discuss the future of mental healthcare. Speakers include *Today* show co-host Carson Daly, journalist Katie Couric, and Harry and Meghan, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex.

The event is organized by the nonprofit Project Healthy Minds. Phillip Schermer, head of the organization, said, "This community reminds us just how powerful it can be when people come together to change the way the world thinks about mental health."

IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

AN ADORABLE ARRIVAL

The Oklahoma City Zoo welcomed a Francois langur monkey, a species that's endangered in the wild. The baby boy, who was born with bright orange fur that will turn black as he grows, is "incredibly special," zookeepers said.

The newborn

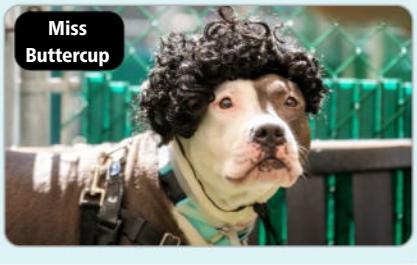
Sister Jean

RETIRING FROM A DREAM JOB

At age 106, Jean Schmidt retired from her role as chaplain of the men's basketball team at Loyola University Chicago. Sister Jean, as she is known, gained fame as the team's biggest fan. In her farewell to students, she said, "Let your dreams become reality. Don't let anybody stop you."

A GOOD HAIR DAY

A New York City animal shelter found a creative way to draw attention to the many dogs at the facility waiting to be adopted: placing wigs on them and calling them "doodles." A video of the pups with their curly hairdos went viral, and nine dogs were adopted in one day. "They just want to be loved by you," said one adopter.



Miss Buttercup

ON THE COVER: COURTESY THE PUBLISHERS; ALAMY; GETTY IMAGES; ON THIS PAGE: GETTY IMAGES; FIFA; OKC ZOO; AP; GEOFFREY TISCHMAN/COURTESY OF ANIMAL CARE CENTERS OF NYC; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3)

AMAZING ACHIEVEMENT
NASA has selected a total of 370 people to train as astronauts.

The 2025 Astronaut Candidate Class at Johnson Space Center

Update on Artemis II

The four astronauts (above) who will travel around the Moon as part of NASA's Artemis II mission have announced that they could launch as soon as February 2026. The three Americans and one Canadian emphasized that all nations should collaborate and work together to explore space for the benefit of the planet.

New class of astronauts announced

NASA, the US space agency, introduced its 24th class of astronauts on September 22. The 10 candidates—six women and four men—were selected from more than 8,000 applicants from across the US.

What happened?

Acting NASA Administrator Sean Duffy welcomed the new class in a ceremony at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. The agency had issued a call for applications in March 2024, when its 23rd class of astronauts graduated. Norm Knight, NASA's flight operations director, said it was extremely difficult to choose from the thousands of talented applicants and called the newcomers "distinguished" and "exceptional." They will join the agency's 41 active astronauts.

Who are the astronauts?

For the first time since 1959, when NASA began recruiting astronauts, this class has more women than men. It includes five current and former US military pilots: Adam Fuhrmann and Cameron Jones of the Air Force, Rebecca Lawler and Erin Overcash of the Navy, and Katherine Spies of the Marines. Two candidates, Ben Bailey of the Army and Imelda Muller of the Navy, have served as military officers. Anna Menon has traveled to space with SpaceX, and Yuri Kobo worked for SpaceX as a launch director. Lauren Edgar is a geologist (scientist who studies the Earth's structure).

What will they do?

The astronauts will spend about two years in training before they can become eligible to go to space. They will be instructed on how to do spacewalks and conduct research in space, among other subjects. When they graduate in about 2027, they could be eligible to help NASA establish a sustained presence on the Moon. Or some of them may be among the first to live and work on a new commercial space station that could begin orbiting Earth as soon as 2030. Further into the future, these astronauts could be the first people to set foot on Mars.

What will happen next?

The new class reported to the space center in September, and training has already begun. Many of the candidates expressed enthusiasm for the opportunity ahead. "I am so excited to be officially part of the NASA family," Edgar said.

WORD OF THE WEEK

BROADCAST

New technology is often named after familiar words. "Broadcast" originally described an agricultural method involving sowing seeds all over the soil, rather than in rows. When radio programs began airing in the 20th century, they were given the name "broadcast" because they transmitted material to a large audience.

THE WEEK IN HISTORY

October 4, 1970
PBS begins broadcasting

On October 4, 1970, the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) began broadcasting on TV. The first program that the commercial-free media company aired was *The French Chef*, a cooking show hosted by Julia Child. It also broadcast the children's shows *Sesame Street* and *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*. Today, PBS reaches more than 130 million people a year, representing about 58% of US households.

PBS
PUBLIC BROADCASTING SERVICE

The Amazon Prime logo

Landmark Amazon case settled

Amazon, the online retailer, has agreed to pay $2.5 billion to settle a lawsuit (legal dispute) filed by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC, the US agency that works to stop unfair business practices). The FTC said Amazon purposely made it difficult for people to cancel their Prime membership and stop paying fees on its website. About $1.5 billion of the money Amazon pays will go to affected customers. The settlement is considered one of the FTC's biggest victories.

Three of the new words

Dictionary adds 5,000 entries

Merriam-Webster has added 5,000 words and phrases to the 12th edition of its Collegiate Dictionary. New entries include "dumbphone," a cell phone lacking advanced features; "side-eye," a glance or gaze expressing scorn; and "rizz," referring to charisma. The aim was to make the new edition, which will be released on November 18, useful and interesting to read, the dictionary company said.

Bill Nye

Big honor for science expert

Popular science educator Bill Nye, age 69, received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles, California, on September 22. He was honored for his lifelong dedication to making science fun and easy to understand through his popular TV show *Bill Nye the Science Guy*. "All of my work has been a celebration of the passion, beauty, and joy of science," Nye said at the star's unveiling.

DID YOU KNOW?
Many southwestern states, including Texas and California, were once part of Mexico.

A portion of the Unity Mural in Washington, DC

Call to protect Latinx sites in the US

For the first time, the advocacy group Latinos in Heritage Conservation (LHC) has released a list of endangered Latinx landmarks located across the country. The list includes 13 sites that are important to Latin American history and culture but are now in danger of being lost if they are not properly maintained. By naming these sites, the organization hopes to inspire communities to find ways to preserve them.

LHC was founded in 2014 to unite people and groups who were already supporting Latin American preservation efforts. According to LHC, 1% of sites listed in the federal government's National Register of Historic Places represent Latinx history and culture.

A few of the sites on LHC's list are outdoor murals that have been damaged over the years by weather. One of them, the Unity Mural in Washington, DC, was painted on a wall by Latin American youth in 1982. Another, the Our Lady of Guadalupe Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Mural in Chicago, Illinois, was created in 1970 to honor members of a church who died in the Vietnam War (1955–1975).

Many of the sites are in Texas, including a cemetery in Elgin that has handmade markers that embody Mexican folk traditions. Another Texas site is an adobe church in Ruidosa that was completed in 1915 to serve Mexican and Mexican American farming communities.

A former center for Latinx youth in San Jose, California, and a shop located in Tucson, Arizona, are both on the list. The shop first opened in 1936 as a Chinese-owned grocery store and reflects the historic ties between Chinese and Mexican communities in the area.

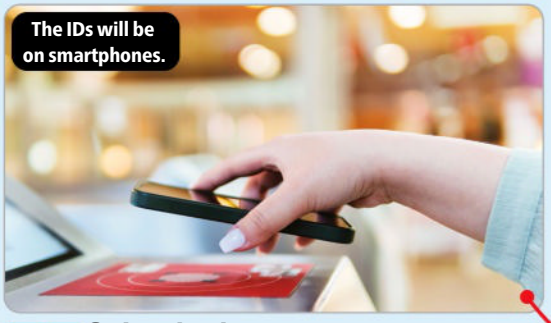
"Our landmarks carry the weight of resilience, community, and survival," said Sehila Mota Casper, executive director of LHC. "Each one holds a piece of America's story. Naming them is the first step to keeping them alive."

The logo for the list of historical sites

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Multiple chickens, pigs, and piglets escape Washington farm" *UPI*

HOLA CULTURA; LATINOS IN HERITAGE CONSERVATION; GETTY IMAGES (3); ON LEFT PAGE: NASA; NASA/FRANK MICHAUX; PBS; GETTY IMAGES

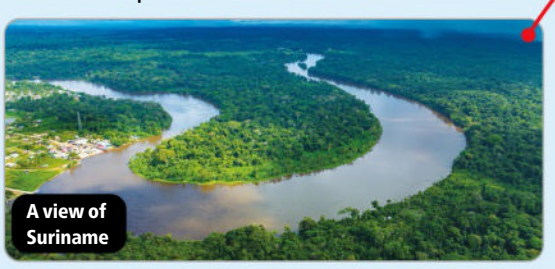


Switzerland
Voters say yes to digital ID cards

Swiss voters approved a plan to create electronic ID cards, with 50.4% voting in favor of the proposal. Authorities said digital IDs will make it easier for people to prove their age and identity online or at offices and stores. After some people expressed concern about companies holding identity data, the new IDs will be controlled by the government and store data only on the user's phone. Citizens can still choose to use physical ID cards.

Mexico City, Mexico
New Frida Kahlo museum opens

The Casa Kahlo Museum has opened, offering a look at the early life of famous Mexican painter Frida Kahlo (1907–1954). Located in the artist's former family home, it showcases Kahlo's treasured personal items including letters, clothing, photos, and dolls. Visitors can also explore a traditional kitchen—whose walls feature a mural painted by Kahlo—and learn about the artist's close relationship with her sister Cristina.



Suriname
Promise to protect forests

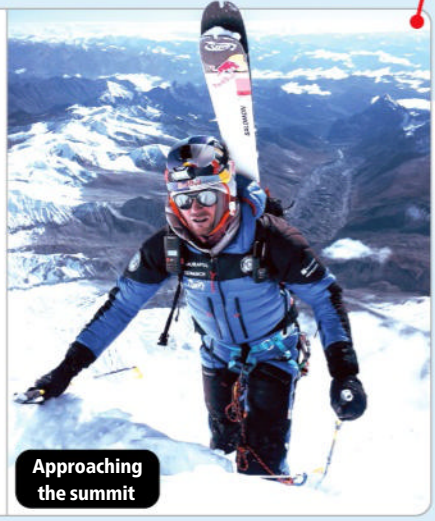
On September 27, Suriname promised to permanently protect 90% of its forests. Tropical rainforests, including the Amazon, cover about 93% of the nation's land. Animals such as jaguars, giant river otters, blue poison dart frogs, and more than 700 bird species live in these forests. The government's pledge could stop people from cutting down trees, mining, or building there.

Zaanse Schans, Netherlands
Village to charge entry fee

A village famous for its picturesque windmills will start charging visitors about $20 next spring in an effort to reduce the number of tourists. Zaanse Schans'100 residents complained that last year, 2.6 million tourists crowded the area and invaded their privacy. The fee includes access to the windmills and will raise money to maintain the village.

Mount Everest, Nepal
Skier makes history

Polish adventurer Andrzej Bargiel became the first person to climb the world's highest peak and ski back down without using bottled oxygen. Mount Everest's summit is more than 29,000 feet above sea level, where there is less oxygen in the air. About 200 people have reached it without using bottled oxygen, and none of them skied down the slopes. Bargiel spent four days climbing the mountain and two days skiing down.



RED BULL CONTENT; ALAMY (4); SHUTTERSTOCK (2); GETTY IMAGES (3)

A supporter

Moldova
Leader's party wins election

President Maia Sandu's Party of Action and Solidarity won an election with just over 50% of the votes, defeating a pro-Russia party. By 2030, Sandu wants Moldova to become a member of the European Union (a group of 27 nations), which would reduce Russia's influence over the country. She accused Russia of interfering in the election.

Negative posts will be banned.

China
Clampdown on internet negativity

The Chinese government has launched an effort to ban social media posts that are too sad or negative. Officials say they want to improve people's experiences online by blocking gloomy statements like "studying is useless." Many young people are unhappy because economic conditions have made it difficult to get into college or find a job, and critics argue that negative feelings won't disappear just because they are banned online.

Peter Mutharika

Malawi
Ex-president to return to power

Peter Mutharika has won Malawi's presidential election, defeating the current leader, Lazarus Chakwera, with about 57% of the votes. During Chakwera's five years in power, Malawi faced problems including high inflation (rate of increase in the cost of goods and services). Mutharika is 85 years old and previously served as president from 2014 to 2020. His party said it would get the country "back on track."

People in the city of Auckland

New Zealand
Plan to let workers become residents

New Zealand has announced plans that will make it easier for people from other countries to live and work there. The country is suffering from a shortage of workers because more New Zealanders are leaving than are moving back. The new rules will take effect in 2026 and will allow workers in certain skilled jobs to become legal permanent residents.

Inle Lake, Myanmar
Lake festival is held

Crowds recently gathered to watch boats race during the Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda Festival on Inle Lake. This two-week-long Buddhist celebration centers on a barge covered in gold that carries four statues of the Buddha to 21 lakeside villages so people can honor them. A popular attraction is the boat race, in which crews famously row while standing with one leg wrapped around an oar.

The golden barge

Should there be more Supreme Court justices?

Some think the nation's top court needs to change, but others say stick with tradition.

What you need to know

- **The Supreme Court of the US was established in 1789 and started with six justices.**
- **Since 1869, the Court has been made up of nine justices.**
- **Justices are nominated by the President and approved by the Senate for unlimited terms. They are replaced when they step down or die.**
- **The Court's rulings affect regular people's daily lives, from their civil rights and freedom of speech to voting and elections.**

The Supreme Court building in Washington, DC

DID YOU KNOW? In 1967, Thurgood Marshall became the first Black Supreme Court justice.

The US Supreme Court, the most powerful court in America, was established by the Constitution (nation's highest law). However, the Constitution does not say how many justices the court should have. In fact, Congress (branch of government that makes laws) changed the number of justices several times in the first 100 years of US history, often for political reasons, from as few as five to as many as 10 justices. Now some people argue it's time for that to change again. In 2023, members of Congress proposed a law to expand the court from nine to 13 justices. What do you think? Should there be more Supreme Court justices?

Yes—it has been done before

The number of Supreme Court justices has already been changed, and doing so does not violate the Constitution. There's no reason the number can't be revised again. And the country has changed greatly since the Court settled on nine justices in 1869. The US is much bigger than it was then, with a wider population containing a broader range of life experiences and perspectives. More justices would represent the current population better. Finally, polls have found that a majority of Americans no longer approve of the Supreme Court because of controversial rulings. A major change would restore faith in the institution.

No—it's not necessary

The Supreme Court is supposed to be independent from the rest of the government. If it expanded, a President could take advantage of the change to add several new justices who support their political agenda. Besides, if the government starts adding justices now, there's no telling where it would stop. Major political parties could keep adding more justices whenever it's politically convenient for them. Plus, there are other ways to reform the Court. One is to give new justices term limits and stagger their appointments so there are vacancies every two years. That way, each President would appoint about the same number of justices.

YES Three reasons there should be more Supreme Court justices

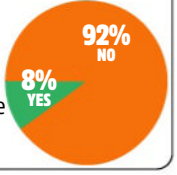
1. **The US has changed the number of justices before, which is constitutional, so it's perfectly fine to do it again.**
2. **Nine justices are not enough to fairly represent modern America's bigger, more diverse population.**
3. **Reform is needed to improve people's opinions of the Court.**

NO Three reasons there should not be more Supreme Court justices

1. **If one President had the chance to appoint several justices, it could undermine the Court's independence.**
2. **The government could just keep adding justices, which would set a bad precedent going forward.**
3. **There are other, more effective ways to change the Court, like term limits.**

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked you if poems are better than books. Your votes showed that you are major book lovers: 92% of you said no, while 8% said yes.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think there should be more Supreme Court justices or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

GETTY IMAGES

Leading with laughs

Actor and comedian Bowen Yang is blazing a trail in his industry.

It has been a big year for *Saturday Night Live* (*SNL*) cast member Bowen Yang. He kicked off 2025 enjoying the success of the film adaptation of the Broadway musical *Wicked*, in which he plays Glinda's friend Pfannee. Then, in July, he made Emmy (top TV award) history by becoming the most nominated Asian male performer. In November, he'll return to the big screen in *Wicked: For Good*, the *Wicked* sequel.

As Moo Deng on *SNL*

Yang was born in Australia and raised in Colorado by Chinese immigrant parents. He grew up watching *SNL* on his basement TV. In high school, he joined his school's improv group and was voted most likely to be on *SNL* by his classmates. He later attended New York University and earned a degree in chemistry, but he decided to pursue comedy instead of going to medical school.

In 2018, Yang got his big break when he joined the *SNL* writing staff. A year later, he became the show's first Chinese American cast member and one of the first openly gay men in the cast. He has portrayed funny characters on the show, like the Iceberg that sank the Titanic and the viral hippo Moo Deng.

In 2021, Yang was nominated for best supporting actor in a comedy series, becoming *SNL*'s first main cast member ever nominated for an acting Emmy. He has been nominated three times since.

Yang's role as Pfannee in the *Wicked* films has been one of his most personally significant. He said that when the show hit Broadway in 2003, he borrowed a CD of the original cast recording from his public library and listened to it for weeks. "This show has meant so much to me," he told NPR.

Bowen Yang

WOW! Sandra Oh, Bowen Yang's childhood hero, has the most Emmy nominations for an Asian female performer, with 14, including 1 win.

A major art position

French art historian Bénédicte Savoy will be the 2026 Chaire du Louvre at the renowned Louvre Museum in Paris, France. The annual guest role invites an expert to give lectures about the museum's art and cultural impact. Savoy, currently a professor in Germany, specializes in 18th- and 20th-century European art. She advocates for repatriation (returning stolen or looted cultural objects to their country of origin), particularly artifacts from Africa. Savoy told a French newspaper she hopes it will start "a new dialogue" about art.

Bénédicte Savoy

Susan Baur

Keeping waters clean

Susan Baur is the founder of Old Ladies Against Underwater Garbage (OLAUG), a group of women ages 64 to 85 who go diving to remove trash from ponds across Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Baur, who loves visiting ponds to swim and observe turtles, noticed an increase in pollution at her local ponds and invited friends to join her in clearing debris. In 2018, the idea became OLAUG, which now has 30 members who do more than 20 organized dives annually during the warmer months. They go in pairs or groups, diving up to 12 feet underwater, with assistance from kayakers.

OVERHEARD

"This is a dream that is really coming true."

Carmelo Anthony on entering the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame with the 2025 class of inductees. The 10-time NBA All-Star played for 19 seasons before retiring in 2023.

GETTY IMAGES (4); ALAMY

SLEEPY SOUND
The call of the dusky gopher frog is often compared to the sound of a snore.

A dusky gopher frog

Helping animals in need

Local experts are working to save several endangered or at-risk species in Mississippi, including southern hognose snakes, West Indian manatees, and ivory-billed woodpeckers. Scientists hope to save the Mitchell's satyr butterfly (below) by restoring key plants in its wetland habitats.

Saving endangered frogs in Mississippi

For years, researchers have experimented with methods to reintroduce dusky gopher frogs into Mississippi ponds. Thanks to the efforts of wildlife officials and teams from the Memphis Zoo in Tennessee and Western Carolina University in North Carolina, the species' population has increased.

Dusky gopher frogs live in Mississippi's longleaf pine forests. Young tadpoles grow up in seasonal ponds, and when they mature they move into burrows made by other animals, such as gopher tortoises. Habitat loss, water shortages, and harmful organisms called parasites have made it more difficult for these frogs to survive and reproduce, so the species has become endangered.

Transforming from tadpole to frog

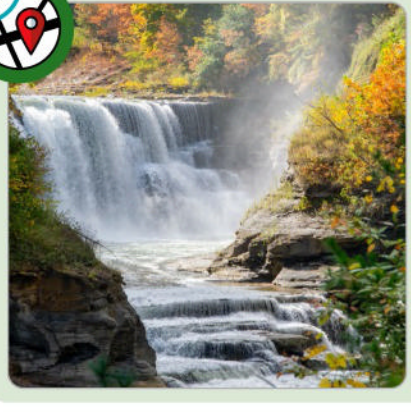
In 2012, after surveys suggested that only 100 to 200 adult dusky gopher frogs remained in the wild, researchers began trying to breed more frogs. At first, an attempt to raise tadpoles in tanks and then release them into a pond failed when a parasitic infection killed many of the young frogs.

Next, biologists dug a pond at the Memphis Zoo, hoping that this would help female frogs produce eggs like they do in the wild. They had some success, but each female frog only produced about 200 eggs, while in the wild they would typically produce about 2,000.

Eventually, the researchers tried making the pond deeper. After they added more water, the frogs started reproducing at much higher rates. As the population grew, plans were made to reintroduce the species to two places in Mississippi where it had previously disappeared: Gil's Pond and Mayhaw Pond.

Now more than 7,000 froglets and 6,000 tadpoles have been released into southern Mississippi ponds over the past eight years. Researchers also introduced female frogs to two ponds where only males were living, helping the wild frogs reproduce. When the researchers checked back in on Gil's and Mayhaw Ponds and eight others, they found an estimated 600 adult dusky gopher frogs and their eggs.

Due to efforts to restore these habitats, gopher tortoises, salamanders, snakes, and other frog species have also returned. "Frogs are now calling in the wild where they have not been seen in many, many years," said Sinlan Poo, the curator of research at the Memphis Zoo.



PLACE OF THE WEEK

Letchworth State Park, New York

Letchworth State Park, in the northwestern part of New York, is often referred to as "the Grand Canyon of the East" because of its dramatic cliffs and deep gorges. The park is about 17 miles long, and the Genesee River courses through it and over waterfalls that spill between cliffs as high as 600 feet. In the fall, the park's trees are known for changing into brilliant shades of red, orange, and gold. Bald eagles can be seen year-round, and white-tailed deer, red foxes, cottontail rabbits, chipmunks, and woodchucks can be spotted in the woods.

A bald eagle

HOLED UP Tibetan antelopes protect themselves from predators and the cold by digging holes to rest in.

The robot antelope

Robot antelope joins wild herds

Chinese scientists have developed a robot antelope to monitor Tibetan antelopes, a species classified as "near threatened." The robot, which walks with a clumsy stride, has joined herds of real antelopes in the wild.

Tibetan antelopes are hunted for their soft fur, which is used to make expensive shawls or scarves. Their population fell from 1 million to 65,000 in the 1990s but is now rising again after conservation efforts. The four-legged robot has been equipped with cameras and artificial intelligence (AI, when a computer imitates human learning) that let scientists observe the animals from afar and see how best to protect them.

The new technology was tested on herds near Zonag Lake in Hoh Xil National Nature Reserve. Very few people live in the region, which is more than 13,000 feet above sea level and has extreme temperatures and low oxygen levels.

The robot can cross muddy areas and obstacles to collect information about the herd. Unlike a human with a camera, the robot can observe the antelopes' behavior without scaring the animals.

Animal of the week: American lobster

A fisherman in Massachusetts recently caught an extremely rare blue lobster in his net. The healthy crustacean now lives at Northeastern University's Marine Science Center. A group of students named him Neptune, after the Roman god of the sea.

- **LIFE SPAN:** About 50 to 80 years
- **HABITAT:** Rocky reefs in the mid-Atlantic Ocean
- **SIZE:** Up to 44 pounds
- **DIET:** Mainly fish, mollusks, shrimp, and clams
- **FUN FACT:** Lobsters can "drop" and regrow limbs, including their claws and antennae.

Good week / Bad week

Vanuatu's coral reefs

Coral reefs around Vanuatu in the southern Pacific Ocean have been harmed by natural disasters during recent years, but now the reefs show signs of recovery. Coral is growing again, and clownfish, starfish, and sea turtles have been seen.

Tropical birds

Over the past 70 years, some bird species in tropical regions have declined by as much as 90%. A new study finds that this is due to extreme heat, with dangerously hot days putting more pressure on birds' bodies.

ASK AN EXPERT: "How much does a hippo weigh?" Mady, 10, Idaho

Dana Vinci
Lead animal care specialist, Brookfield Zoo Chicago

There are two species of hippopotamus. For the common hippo, males may weigh 3,500 to 7,000 pounds, while females range from 1,400 to 5,000 pounds. The lesser-known pygmy hippo is much smaller: Both males and females weigh 400 to 600 pounds.

A common hippo

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. Find out more about the Brookfield Zoo at brookfieldzoo.org.

DEEP ROBOTICS VIA X; GETTY IMAGES; MATTHEW MODOONO/NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY; ALAMY (2); ON LEFT PAGE: ALAMY/TONY CENICOLA/THE NEW YORK TIMES; DEREK HENNEN/VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION; GETTY IMAGES (2)

Find your next exciting read!

Have you ever finished the last book in a series you loved and wondered...what will I read next? We have the answer! We asked kids to tell us which series they love most, then we asked middle-grade experts to share their recommendations for their favorite "readalikes"—titles that capture similar themes, characters, or storytelling. Get ready to dig in to your next great book!

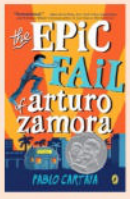
IF YOU ENJOYED THIS SERIES...

Front Desk

By Kelly Yang

In this beautifully written, heart-wrenching series, fifth-grader Mia, an Asian American immigrant, works at the front desk of a California motel that her parents manage. "Mia loves to write and tackles a new school while making friends and memories," said Aalyah, 11.

TRY THESE BOOKS...



The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora

By Pablo Cartaya

Arturo, a 13-year-old poet, helps out at his family's Cuban restaurant. When a developer tries to close it, Arturo rallies the community to save it. "Like *Front Desk*, this stand-alone novel has activism and strong family ties," said Liv Hanson of the Chicago Public Library.

Parachute Kids

By Betty C. Tang

In this first of a two-book graphic novel series, Feng Li's Taiwanese parents believe that she and her siblings will have better opportunities in America. When they can't immigrate together, the kids move to the US first. Hanson said, "Just like Mia, Feng Li learns to navigate a new language and culture."

Merci Suárez Changes Gears

By Meg Medina

Similar to Mia, sixth-grader Merci is navigating changes at home and at school. "Each title in the three-book *Merci Suárez* series finds Merci starting a new school year with new teachers, jobs, and ideas about who she is and who she wants to be," said Hanson.

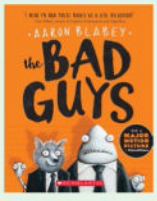
IF YOU ENJOYED THIS SERIES...

DOG MAN

By Dav Pilkey

This 13-book series of graphic novels about a half-man, half-dog who works as a police officer is "funny and super fun to read," said Declan, 7. Running gags and Flip-O-Rama pages—which, when turned quickly, make the images appear to move—keep kids entertained. A 14th book will be published in November.

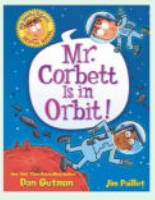
TRY THESE BOOKS...



The Bad Guys

By Aaron Blabey

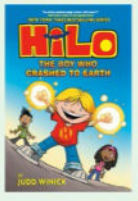
The characters from this 20-book graphic novel series—about a group of animal criminals trying to reform themselves—feel like they could fit right into the *Dog Man* universe. Even *Dog Man*'s creator Dav Pilkey said, "I wish I had these books as a kid. Hilarious!"



Mr. Corbett Is in Orbit!

By Dan Gutman, illustrated by Jim Paillot

A second-grader and his classmates take epic field trips in *Mr. Corbett Is in Orbit!*, the first of three graphic novel adaptations of the popular *My Weird School* series. Zany antics and colorful comic panels will likely remind you of *Dog Man*.

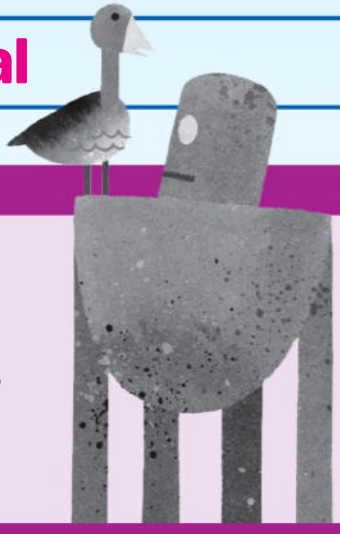


Hilo

By Judd Winick

If the *Dog Man* and *Big Nate* series were combined, the result would be the action-packed 11-book graphic novel series *Hilo*. In the first title, *The Boy Who Crashed to Earth*, a robot makes two friends who help him uncover the mystery of his identity. The trio continue to go on many adventures.

Book club special



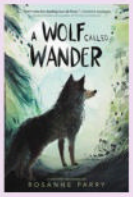
IF YOU ENJOYED THIS SERIES...

The Wild Robot

By Peter Brown

When Roz, a highly intelligent robot, becomes shipwrecked on an island, she befriends the wildlife and forms a nurturing relationship with Brightball, a baby goose. Combining nature and science fiction elements, this three-book series "has amazing storytelling," according to Ethan, 13. Adya, 9, added, "I like the twists and turns and adventure scenes."

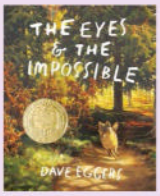
TRY THESE BOOKS...



A Wolf Called Wander

By Rosanne Parry

The survival story *A Wolf Called Wander* kicks off the four-book *Voice of the Wilderness* series. "This page-turning adventure is based on the journey of an actual wolf cub who gets separated from his family and has to find a new home," said Hanson. Other books in the series, which can be read in any order, focus on a whale, a horse, and a lion.



The Eyes & the Impossible

By Dave Eggers

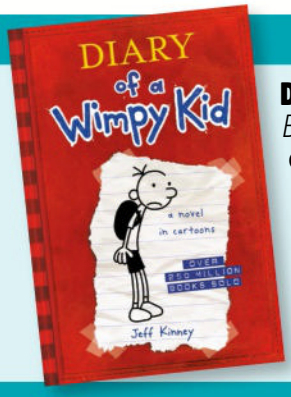
Just like *The Wild Robot*, this Newbery Medal winner has interspecies friendships and high-stakes drama. It's written from the point of view of a dog whose job is to be "the eyes" for three bison, reporting back what happens at an urban park. Hanson suggests listening to the audiobook, which brings the animals' voices to life. A follow-up book will be released in 2026.

The One and Only Ivan

By Katherine Applegate

In *The One and Only Ivan*, the first installment of a four-book series, Ivan, a gorilla, learns to care for Ruby, a baby elephant, and seeks freedom and a better life for them both outside the confines of their shopping mall zoo. Their relationship may remind you of the two main characters in *The Wild Robot*. "Adventure, drama, and friendship drive this novel in verse," Hanson said.

IF YOU ENJOYED THIS SERIES...



Diary of a Wimpy Kid

By Jeff Kinney

Greg Heffley's misadventures in middle school—which are documented in Greg's diary entries and cartoon drawings—have entertained readers of this collection of 20 books for nearly two decades. "The series is very funny, and I so love how the main character talks about his life and his family," said Eloise, 9. Elana, 10, added that the books "contain adventure, while still being chill and laughable."

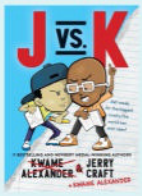
BOOK BLISS
National Book Month, celebrated in October, was created by the National Book Foundation in 2003.

TRY THESE BOOKS...

Nat Enough

By Maria Scrivan

Similar to Greg, middle-schooler Nat (short for Natalie) never thought she was good enough at sports or academics. When her best friend Lily starts hanging out with the popular kids at school, Nat has to decide whether she wants to win her back or not. The six books in this graphic novel series are illustrated like Nat's colorful sketchbook.



J vs. K

By Kwame Alexander and Jerry Craft

Two powerhouse book creators teamed up on this hilarious new illustrated novel about talented fifth-grade rivals. J loves to draw, while K loves to write, and they are both determined to beat each other in their school's storytelling contest. A big plot twist has something to do with the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* author himself.

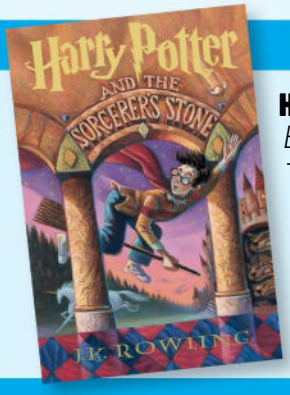
Timmy Failure

By Stephan Pastis

Like the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* collection, this seven-book series is written and illustrated in the style of a diary. It chronicles the life of a clueless but confident 11-year-old detective named Timmy. He runs his "Total Failure" detective agency investigating small crimes—like stolen Halloween candy—with a lazy polar bear. You'll find that Timmy's mishaps are just as funny as Greg's.

BOOKS AND ILLUSTRATIONS COURTESY OF THE PUBLISHERS

IF YOU ENJOYED THIS SERIES...



Harry Potter
By J.K. Rowling

The seven-book series about an orphan who gets invited to a magical school has cast a spell on *The Week Junior* readers, who recommend *Harry Potter* more than any other title. "I wish I could live at Hogwarts!" said Miles, 9. Added Aida, 10, "This series took me on a journey." Readers said details like flying broomsticks made the novels stand out.

TRY THESE BOOKS...

A Wizard of Earthsea
By Ursula K. Le Guin

This first title in the six-book *Earthsea Cycle* collection, which was published decades before the *Harry Potter* books, focuses on a young wizard who attends a magical school. (Sound familiar?) Some experts speculate that this series may have influenced J.K. Rowling's writing, although the setting and tone of the books are different.

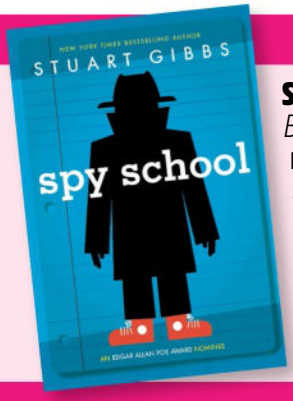
A Method for Magic and Misfortune
By Craig Kofi Farmer

A 12-year-old boy who discovers magic is trying to figure out if his mentor is trustworthy or someone he needs to escape. This stand-alone novel may remind you of the later books in the *Harry Potter* series, said Elizabeth Bird, a librarian and author in Evanston, Illinois. She added, "Not only is the world-building great here, but the magical elements spark and sing."

The School for Good and Evil
By Soman Chainani

Set at a magical school, this twisty, six-book series stands out for its fractured fairytale world as well as its captivating characters who have deep friendships and epic betrayals. While students are sorted into Hogwarts houses in *Harry Potter*, this fantasy series has readers siding with either Team Agatha or Team Sophie.

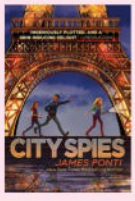
IF YOU ENJOYED THIS SERIES...



Spy School
By Stuart Gibbs

Ben, a middle schooler, gets recruited for a spy training academy, and it's so top secret that even his parents don't know he's working for the CIA. Over the course of 13 books, "the spies in training go on lots of fun adventures to save the world," said Miriam, 12. "The villains are funny, and the whole series is very entertaining." Plus, it's packed with action and suspense!

TRY THESE BOOKS...



City Spies
By James Ponti

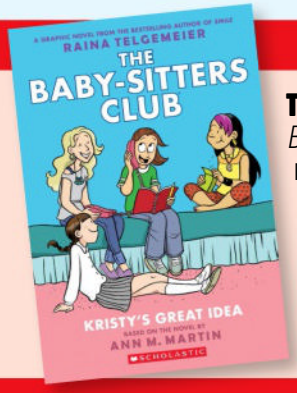
Like the aspiring spies in the *Spy School* mystery novels, the team of kids in the seven-book *City Spies* series also travel to far-flung locations throughout the world on dangerous missions and adventures. "Each spy's code name is a city featured in the series," said Amy Miller of the Central Arkansas Library System in Little Rock.

Masterminds
By Gordon Korman

In this action-packed trilogy, four kids discover that their seemingly perfect town of Serenity, New Mexico, is actually harboring a very dark secret. It's up to them to follow the clues that will unlock a shocking discovery. The relationships that form among the main characters in the *Masterminds* series may remind you of the bonds among the *Spy School* crew.

The Misfits
By Lisa Yee, illustrated by Dan Santat

While this illustrated series also features a group of kid spies, they don't have conventional sleuthing skills. Instead, each contributes a specific talent that makes them strong spies together. "An elite group of underdogs have been trained to fight crime and must start by saving their unique school," said Miller.



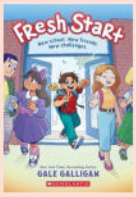
IF YOU ENJOYED THIS SERIES...

The Baby-Sitters Club

By Ann M. Martin, adapted by multiple illustrators

Nineteen books in *The Baby-Sitters Club* series have been turned into graphic novels. "They're a little different from the original books and help you visualize the characters and their emotions better," said Megan, 11. Other readers noted they like how the series about a group of friends who start their own babysitting business emphasizes teamwork and entrepreneurship.

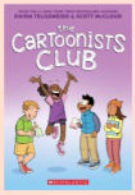
TRY THESE BOOKS...



Fresh Start

By Gale Galligan

In this stand-alone novel, a girl who has frequently changed schools as her family moved around for her father's job is shocked to find out that they will now stay in one place—giving her a chance to make lasting friends. Galligan turned some of the *The Baby-Sitters Club* books into graphic novels, so the art in *Fresh Start* will feel familiar.



The Cartoonists Club

By Raina Telgemeier and Scott McCloud

Four kids who want to create their own comics start a new school club to share their creativity in this graphic novel. Their friendships and problem-solving skills may remind you of *The Baby-Sitters Club* books. "It's a clever combination of great storytelling and practical advice for kids who want to make comics of their own," said Bird.

Katie the Catsitter

By Colleen AF Venable, illustrated by Stephanie Yue

If you liked the babysitting and mystery elements of *The Baby-Sitters Club*, this four-book series will satisfy you. Katie, age 12, gets a summer job caring for her bizarre neighbor's 217 cats. As she navigates friendship trouble and crushes, Katie also sleuths out her neighbor's possible connection to a local supervillain.

IF YOU ENJOYED THIS SERIES...

Percy Jackson and the Olympians

By Rick Riordan

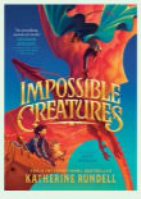
The seven books in this popular set, starting with the first title, *The Lightning Thief*, "throw you headfirst into this awesome world where Greek gods are real and monsters are everywhere," said Penelope, 11. "The series is an epic adventure with a perfect mix of humor, action, and mythology that totally grabs you." Addison, 12, said, "It will keep you wondering about what Percy and his friends will have to battle next!"

TRY THESE BOOKS...

Amari and the Night Brothers

By B.B. Alston

In *Amari and the Night Brothers*, the first in the four-book *Supernatural Investigations* series, the story of a girl's search for her missing brother mirrors the fast pace of the *Percy Jackson* books. "In both series, the protagonists discover a magical world parallel to their own," said librarian Valerie Coughlin of the Hoboken Public Library in New Jersey.



Impossible Creatures

By Katherine Rundell

Percy fans may find a new beloved character in Christopher, a child on a quest to save the last magic that's left in the world. Some of the book's fantastical creatures, like the sphinx and sea nymphs, have connections to Greek mythology. *Impossible Creatures*, which features a map and more than 60 illustrations, is the first book in this ongoing fantasy series.

Aru Shah and the End of Time

By Roshani Chokshi

The *Pandava* quintet series, beginning with *Aru Shah and the End of Time*, is the natural next choice for *Percy Jackson* fans, said Coughlin. Published by *Percy Jackson* author Rick Riordan's own imprint, the five books in the collection "blend mythological and modern themes as it tells the tale of young heroes on epic quests," she said.

BOOKS AND ILLUSTRATIONS COURTESY OF THE PUBLISHERS

BUSY BEES
Honeybees pollinate about $17 billion worth of US crops every year, accounting for one out of every three bites of food we eat.

Honeybees at work in their hive

New superfood could save bees

Scientists have created a "superfood" for honeybees that is extra rich in nutrients and could help bee populations. Honeybees are vitally important to life on Earth. They carry pollen from one plant to another, which allows flowers to turn into fruit or grains and then reproduce.

A recent survey found that between April 1, 2024, and April 1, 2025, beekeepers in the US saw a 55.6% drop in their honeybee colonies. Though new colonies are also added every year, the overall numbers concern bee experts.

The main factors affecting honeybee numbers include climate change, habitat loss, and poor nutrition. Honeybees usually eat pollen and nectar, which contain a type of fat called sterol—an important nutrient that helps honeybees grow. When there isn't enough pollen available, beekeepers give their bees extra food. The supplement helps but doesn't offer honeybees a fully balanced diet with the proteins, fats, vitamins, and minerals they need.

A scientist working on the study

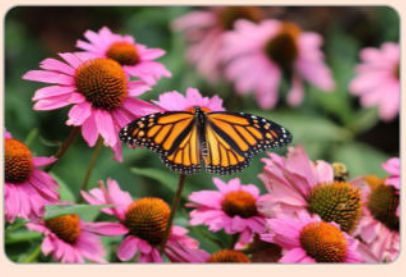
Scientists at the University of Oxford, in the UK, wanted to create a better bee food. First they identified the six types of sterol bees need, then engineered a type of yeast that can make them all. Next, the team had to turn the sterols into food—but they had to make sure it was tasty because bees are picky eaters.

Geraldine Wright, who led the research, told BBC News that they mostly used simple kitchen tools—not special laboratory equipment—to make a mixture "like a cookie dough" filled with bee-friendly ingredients. The team fed the bees in enclosed glass houses to ensure that they ate only the superfood diet. That allowed the scientists to track the results and tweak the recipe.

Compared to colonies that didn't get the supplement, the honeybee colonies that ate the superfood produced up to 15 times more baby bees that grew to adulthood. They were also more likely to look after their offspring for longer.

A new source of nutritious food could help the bees become healthier, better able to fend off disease, and more likely to survive. It could also mean less competition for wildflowers (see box at right). Wright called the new superfood "a huge breakthrough." She and her team will continue testing their discovery and said they hope it could be available to beekeepers and farmers within about two years.

Flowering food



Bees have to visit a lot of flowers to gather food. However, some of the same factors affecting their populations, like climate change, are also affecting the blooms they rely on for survival. Scientists have warned that changing weather patterns around the world are making it harder for wildflowers to thrive. This includes flowers planted by people and those that grow naturally.

Typically, farmers plant wildflower seeds in spring and fall, but with hot, dry springs and very wet fall seasons, seeds haven't sprouted. In the past 80 years, 97% of wildflower fields in the UK have been lost. The team working on the honeybee superfood said it could help this problem by providing an alternate source of nutrition. That would reduce competition among bees for the wildflowers that do exist.

Origami "blooms" turn art into science

Origami, the Japanese art of folding paper, has existed for hundreds of years, but new patterns are still being discovered. Kelvin Wang, a college student at Brigham Young University (BYU) in Utah, recently developed "bloom patterns" that could be used in mechanical design.

FUN FACT
The term "origami" comes from the Japanese word *ori*, meaning folding, and *kami*, which means paper.

The principles of origami have already been used to build bridges and medical devices. And NASA (the US space agency) designed several components of the James Webb Space Telescope to unfold in space, including its massive mirror.

Wang, who has been doing origami since he was a boy, created the first bloom patterns on his own. They collapse into flat, circular layers, then open up into a much larger structure resembling a blooming flower. He joined a research lab at BYU to further develop his ideas.

Objects that follow this design could be easily stored in a flat state for transport, then deployed into a larger shape in a new location. The concept could be used for buildings, solar panels, or furniture.

Wang and his team have proven that the bloom pattern can work with a range of materials beyond paper. They 3D-printed a large sheet of plastic in a bloom pattern design that folded flat, then opened into a larger shape.

"I love to do origami, but if I can use origami to make practical applications that can benefit the world, that will be a dream come true," Wang said.

An origami bloom pattern that goes from flat to fully open

The mural was carved and painted.

Rare, colorful mural found in Peru

Archaeologists (scientists who study objects left by people long ago) in Peru uncovered a 3,000-year-old mural decorated with fish, stars, and mythological creatures. It sheds light on ancient artistic traditions of the country's northwest coast.

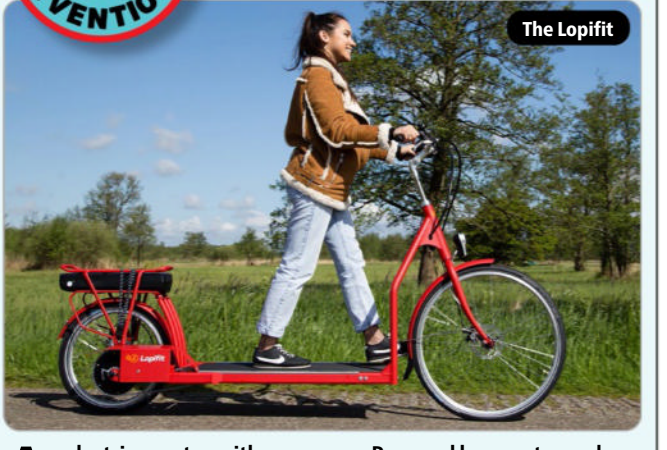
The art was found at a site called Huaca Yolanda and dates to 2000 to 1000 BCE. At 20 feet long and 9.5 feet tall, it was originally painted blue, yellow, red, and black and was likely displayed inside a temple.

Designs on the mural include a bird with outstretched arms and a diamond design on its head. Another depicts plants, stars, and human-like figures that probably represented powerful people of the era.

Imagery of fish and fishing nets reflect the coastal region where the mural was found. The team said its design is unlike anything else found in the area and represents a high level of artistic sophistication for the period in which it was made.

AMAZING INVENTION

A scooter that's also a treadmill



The Lopifit

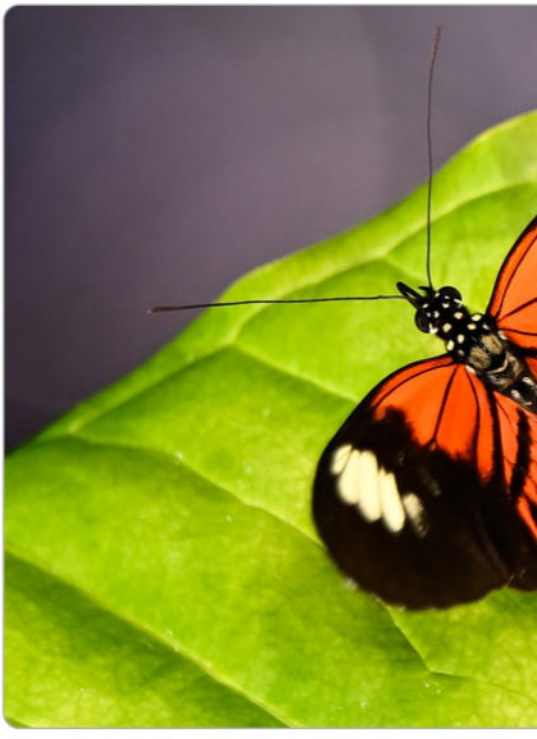
An electric scooter with a built-in walking belt lets riders move at their own pace while traveling quickly along the road. The Lopifit was designed by a Dutch man who wanted to find a way to get some exercise on a treadmill during his morning commute.

Powered by a motor and battery, the Lopifit can move at up to 20 miles per hour while walkers can hit up to 3 miles per hour. A display on the handles shows battery level, speed, and distance. With a single charge, the eco-friendly e-scooter can travel about 50 miles.

BYU; PONTIFICAL CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF PERU; LOPIFIT; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); CAROLINE WOOD

Photos of the week

Keeping watch
A falcon perches on a handler's wrist before a parade in Poland.



Dressed to impress
In Ukraine, members of a dance group perform in traditional costumes.

GETTY IMAGES (6)

Photos of the week

Winging it
At a science museum exhibit in California, a butterfly sits on a leaf.

Hello there
In Colorado, a moose looks back through the fall leaves.

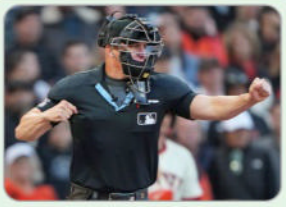
All together
Folk dancers prepare to participate at a Hindu festival in India.

Feathered flock
This photo of long-legged egrets was taken at a lake in China.

DID YOU KNOW?
A baseball's average lifespan during a Major League game is about three pitches.

The Cleveland Guardians celebrate their AL Central title.

Rule changes coming

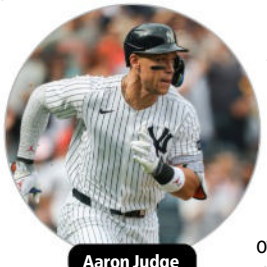


Beginning in 2026, MLB players will be allowed to challenge an umpire's ball and strike calls. Teams will begin each game with two challenges, and only batters, pitchers, and catchers will be allowed to use them. If a challenge is successful, the team will retain it.

MLB teams head into playoffs

On September 28, the final games of the 2025 MLB (Major League Baseball) regular season were played. Heading into the last three games, eight playoff spots had been clinched, but four were open and multiple division titles were still undetermined. The Cleveland Guardians, Cincinnati Reds, Detroit Tigers, and Boston Red Sox claimed the final postseason spots.

Each year, the winners of the East, Central, and West divisions of the National League (NL) and American League (AL) automatically make the postseason. The Milwaukee Brewers, who won the NL Central, finished the season with a 97–65 record, the best in the MLB. The other top NL teams were the Philadelphia Phillies in the East and the Los Angeles Dodgers in the West. The Dodgers are the defending World Series champions, and this is their 12th NL West title in 13 years.



Aaron Judge

In the AL East, the Toronto Blue Jays and the New York Yankees, division rivals, both had 94–68 records. The Blue Jays won the AL title, though, because they had beaten the Yankees in eight of the 13 games they played against each other this season. Last year, the Blue Jays had the worst record in the division. The Guardians won the AL Central, while the Seattle Mariners won the AL West. On July 9, the Guardians had trailed their division rivals, the Tigers, by 15½ games, and on September 5, they were still 11 games back. No other team in MLB history has had a bigger comeback in September.

Each league has three Wild Card teams in addition to the division winners. In the AL, the Tigers earned a Wild Card spot, along with the Yankees and the Red Sox. The NL Wild Cards are the Reds, Chicago Cubs, and San Diego Padres. The top two division winners in each league go directly to the Divisional round, while the rest of the teams competed in a best-of-three Wild Card series that began on September 30. The Divisional series were scheduled to begin on October 4.

Two of this season's best hitters made the playoffs. Yankees slugger Aaron Judge ended the regular season with a .331 batting average, the best in MLB, and Phillies shortstop Trea Turner led the NL with an average of .304.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

FOOTBALL

In college football on September 27, sixth-ranked University of Oregon met third-ranked Penn State in a rematch of last season's Big Ten Championship game, which Oregon won. They did it again with a 30–24 victory in double overtime at Penn State. The next day in the NFL, rookie quarterback Jaxson Dart helped lead the New York Giants to a 21–18 win over the previously undefeated Los Angeles Chargers.

England's rugby team (in white)

RUGBY

On September 27, England beat Canada to win their third Women's Rugby World Cup title. The match was played in front of a crowd of nearly 82,000, the biggest in women's rugby history.

BASKETBALL

In the WNBA playoff semifinals on September 28, the fourth-seeded (ranked) Phoenix Mercury beat the top-seeded Minnesota Lynx, 86–81, to advance to the finals. They will face the Las Vegas Aces or Indiana Fever.

ROAD WARRIORS This year was the first time Team Europe won a Ryder Cup in the US since 2012.

Team Europe with the Ryder Cup

Golf stars compete at Ryder Cup

The 2025 Ryder Cup, one of the most highly anticipated events in golf, took place from September 26 to September 28 at Bethpage Black Golf Course in Farmingdale, New York. The event, which is held every two years, is a team competition that features 12 of the best men's golf players from the US and 12 of the top men from Europe. This year, Team Europe defended their 2023 title by defeating Team USA, 15–13.

The first Ryder Cup took place in 1927. The US has 27 wins, Europe now has 16 wins, and there were two ties. The format of the event sets it apart from regular tournaments. Over three days, the golfers compete in 28 matches across three styles of play: foursomes, four-ball, and singles. In foursomes, two players from each team alternate shots using the same ball. In four-ball, each player plays their own ball, and the lower score from the pair counts. On the final day, all 24 golfers face off in singles matches. Each match is worth one point, and a tie awards half a point to each side. The first team to reach 14.5 points wins. If the total is tied at 14, the defending champion retains the Cup.

Europe dominated the first two days and came into Day 3 with a seven-point lead. They needed two points to keep the Cup and 2.5 to officially win it, but the US team made a comeback and won five of the first seven matches. The pressure was on the golfers in the last four matches. The US needed to win them all to take the Cup, but in Match 8, Europe's Shane Lowry sank a putt on his final hole to clinch the 14th point. Two of his teammates secured another half point each in the last two matches to secure Europe's victory.

COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Nicole Clark**

Team: **Woodbine Gators (swimming)**

"Coach Nicole led us to a division championship last year, and she helped us with a winning season this year. She is the best coach because she is always positive, always makes sure we do our best in and out of the pool, never takes no for an answer, and encourages us to be better swimmers and better people. She is patient, kind, and fun. She cares about all of us, especially the younger swimmers. Coach Nicole is a great role model and friend." Lily, 10, New Jersey

To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to *hello@theweekjunior.com.* Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Audrey Wethington

AGE: 23 SPORT: ICE HOCKEY
TEAM: UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Taking the ice I started skating when I was age 2. My mom comes from a big hockey family. She was the first-ever women's hockey coach at St. Cloud State University, and my two younger aunts played in college. I started dreaming about playing college hockey when I was about 4 or 5.

Tough lesson I came to college as a top player, but the team had Olympians and All-Americans, so I didn't get a lot of playing time at first. I was frustrated, but I stuck it out. I learned to be patient and that things aren't going to be given to you right away.

Cool idea I played my last season last winter. I used to journal before every game. I'd write down four small goals—and not about things like scoring but things like being a good support for my teammates. Focusing on those small things helped ease my mind, especially during a big game.

Good advice In a game, you can't spend too much energy on things that aren't going well. My coach used to say that in hockey, you're wearing an imaginary backpack. Every time you have a bad play, it's like putting a five-pound weight in it. If you don't take it out and let it go, it will weigh you down.

Major victory In 2020, I won a gold medal with Team USA at the U18 World Championships. We beat Team Canada in overtime. It was one of the coolest memories because the previous year, we lost to them in overtime and got the silver.

Big goal I just started medical school, but I plan to stay involved in hockey. I'd like to be a physician for a college program or work for the PWHL.

GETTY IMAGES; UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ATHLETICS (2); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (4)

CARTOON SPIN-OFF
A *Beetlejuice* animated series aired on Saturday morning TV from 1989 to 1991.

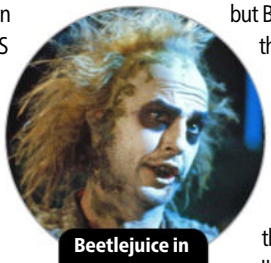
Madison Mosley (left) and Justin Collette in *Beetlejuice*

Beetlejuice back on Broadway

The musical adaptation of the classic film is ending its national tour with a 13-week stop in New York City.

Back in 2019, a musical adaptation of the popular Tim Burton film *Beetlejuice* opened on Broadway. It was nominated for eight Tonys (top theater award), had runs at two different theaters, and played 679 shows before closing in early 2023. A touring company has been performing the show across the US for nearly three years, and it's heading back to Broadway from October 8 through January 3 for its final stop.

The film version of *Beetlejuice* was released in 1988. It centers on a ghost couple, Adam and Barbara Maitland, who enlist a wacky demon, Beetlejuice, to drive away a family that has moved into their house. The daughter, Lydia, is able to see Beetlejuice and the ghosts.



Beetlejuice in the 1988 film

The plot of the musical is similar to the movie, but Beetlejuice is a bigger character and there is more of a focus on Lydia, who is grieving the death of her mother. Although life and death are big themes of the show, actress Madison Mosley, who will play Lydia at select performances, told *The Week Junior* that the musical features fun songs as well as "a witty script and a lot of heart."

Mosley has been with the touring company for almost a year and a half, and she said it has been exciting to be part of something that has such a strong following. She said audience members will even come to performances dressed as Beetlejuice and Lydia. "People are so connected to the show, and that's been really cool to see," Mosley said.

Throughout the musical, Lydia is trying to figure out where she belongs in the world. Meeting the Maitlands gets her thinking that her mother's ghost could be in her old house, but she has to learn to cope with reality. In the end, Mosley said, the show has takeaways about relationships, family, and "finding what 'home' means to you."

3 musicals now on tour

The Outsiders

This show is based on S.E. Hinton's classic novel about teens in 1960s Oklahoma. It won the 2024 Tony (top theater award) for best musical. The North American tour just kicked off, and there are dates scheduled through September 2026.

Six

The main characters in this award-winning musical are the six wives of Henry VIII, the king of England from 1509 to 1547. The show uses pop-music-inspired songs to tell their stories. A national tour recently began, with dates set through June 2026.

The Sound of Music

While many people are familiar with the 1965 film about the singing von Trapp family, the musical originated as an award-winning 1959 Broadway production. A North American tour is underway and scheduled into August 2026.

AMAZING AUTHOR
In 2014, Stephen King received the National Medal of Arts, the country's top honor for achievements in the arts.

A Maurice Sendak illustration for *Hansel and Gretel*

Famous fairy tale reimagined

The work of two legendary storytellers has come together in a new picture book version of the classic fairy tale *Hansel and Gretel*. The reimagined story was written by Stephen King, a best-selling author known for horror novels. It is paired with illustrations by Maurice Sendak (1928–2012), the author and illustrator of children's books such as *Where the Wild Things Are*.

Hansel and Gretel was first published in 1812 by the German storytellers the Brothers Grimm. It follows a brother and sister who are left in the forest, where they discover a candy-covered house. The house is a witch's trap, and after the children are caught, they must devise a clever escape plan. Over the years, the story has inspired many plays, films, and books.

Hansel and Gretel was composed as an opera in 1893, and Sendak designed artwork and sets to go along with a 1997 staging of it. The Maurice Sendak Foundation kept those drawings, and the group invited King, whose stories often include brave children in difficult situations, to write a version of the tale inspired by Sendak's art. King told the Associated Press (AP) that the project "was a very exciting challenge."

Stephen King

The author stayed close to the classic story but added new details based on Sendak's art. For example, one image showed the witch flying across the moon with a bag of children, so he wrote about Hansel dreaming about that scene.

King has long admired fairy tales for their darkness and honesty. He told the AP those stories have to be scary "because they give children a taste of adult emotions." But they have an upside, too. "The good part is that you give them a happy ending," King said.

READER RECOMMENDS

The Mitchells vs. the Machines *PG (Netflix or rent on other platforms)*

"The Mitchell family is going on a road trip before teen Katie leaves for college. Meanwhile, the company that makes a popular Alexa-like smart personal assistant, PAL, announces it is replacing PAL with robots. PAL gets angry and reprograms the robots to capture all humans and send them to space. The Mitchells manage to escape, and they go on the run without any technology so they can't be tracked. With nobody around to help, it becomes their job to save humanity. This is a hilarious movie." Lillian, 10, Massachusetts

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST

NFL Slimetime
(Paramount+) Wednesdays at 5 p.m. ET
This Nickelodeon series show about pro football is back for its fifth season. Each week, hosts Nate Burleson, who is a former NFL player, and Dylan Gilmer show highlights and interview players. They will award a slime trophy to the best player at the end of the season.

Is It Cake? Halloween
(Netflix)
The popular competition series is back with Halloween-themed episodes. Nine bakers are challenged to craft spooky cakes that resemble things such as gargoyles, scary clowns, black cats, and owls. As always, judges try to guess what's real and what's actually made of cake.

Kiff
(Disney+) (Disney Channel)
Optimistic squirrel Kiff and her laid-back bunny friend Barry star in this series about their lives in a quirky town. Season two came out earlier this year, but there is a new Halloween special out now. In it, the duo has to make things right after running out of holiday candy.

COURTESY OF HARPERCOLLINS AND THE MAURICE SENDAK FOUNDATION; GETTY IMAGES; NETFLIX (2); NICKELODEON; DISNEY; ON LEFT PAGE: MATTHEW MURPHY (2); ALAMY; JOAN MARCUS; JEREMY DANIEL

PUZZLE MASTERS
A team of four in Japan set a record in 2020 for attending the most escape rooms in a single day: 32.

Make an escape room

With a little creativity, you can set up a fun challenge at home.

An escape room is a thrilling adventure: You must solve a series of puzzles to successfully "escape" a room in a set amount of time. The best part is you can problem-solve your way to victory with the help of friends or family. While there are many escape rooms you can visit, you can also create one at home, right in your living room. Here's how you can get started.

Select a theme

A theme can help get everyone excited before the game even begins, and it will help give you direction as you create your clues. You can base your escape room on a holiday like Halloween, a sports-themed challenge, or even a classic treasure hunt with a reward at the end.

Gather props

Round up items you can use to create challenges to solve. Gather locks, small boxes or containers, paper, and a pen. You could also decorate your escape room with drawings or posters, and have simple costume props, like hats and flashlights.

Write down the end goal

Prepare a short paragraph to read at the beginning of the game. For example, you can set the scene by writing something like, "You are adventurers trapped in a haunted Halloween maze, and you must solve spooky puzzles to escape before the clock strikes 8."

Locks help add suspense!

Create small challenges

Each challenge can help players progress toward the ultimate goal of escaping. For example, make up a riddle that directs players to a clue. "I have four legs, but I don't walk. I'm the place you sit and talk." The answer would be a chair, and you can plan to hide the clue in a cushion. That clue might help players find a key or combination to a locked box. Then, players can unlock the box, which would hold the next clue.

Hide the clues

Map the escape route: Start at the end and work backward, picking spots for each clue and challenge. You could opt to have a prize at the finish, like mini pumpkins or chocolate coins.

Do a test run

Ask an adult to be a test player to make sure the steps work in order. When they are done, make whatever changes you need to. Then, at game time, welcome your players, set a timer, and go!

Crack the code

To solve the puzzle of an escape room before time's up, here are a few smart strategies.

Look—and look again Check for clues in high and low places and at eye level. Lift the corner of a rug, check inside books, and peek behind picture frames.

Stay organized Designate a table for your team to separate solved clues and unsolved clues.

Rotate puzzles If you get stuck on a clue, pass it to a teammate. You'll save time, and a pair of fresh eyes may help solve it!

Don't overthink Try not to get weighed down by complex calculations. Often the simple answer is the correct one!

DID YOU KNOW?
Despite their name, sweet potatoes are not potatoes. They are a root vegetable.

WARNING!
Ask an adult's permission before using the oven.

Roast sweet potatoes with tahini and chickpeas

Ingredients

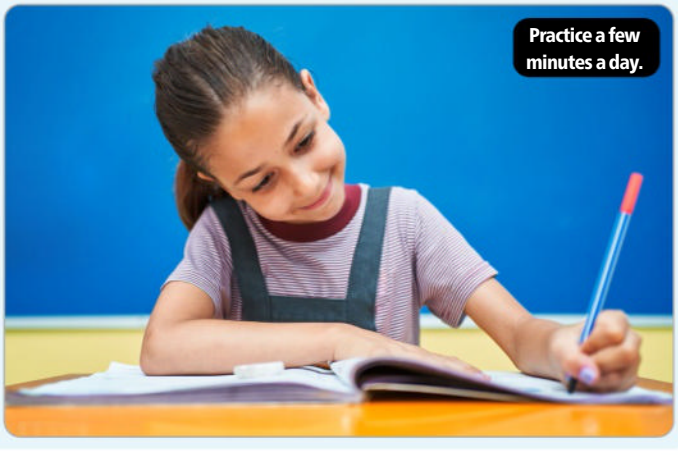
- 4 medium sweet potatoes
- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- One 15-ounce can chickpeas, drained, rinsed, and patted dry
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- ½ teaspoon ground cumin
- ¼ cup tahini
- Juice of ½ lemon

Instructions

1. Heat the oven to 375° F. Rinse and scrub the sweet potatoes to remove any dirt, then prick potatoes a few times with the tines of a fork or the tip of a knife.
2. Arrange sweet potatoes on a foil-lined baking sheet and drizzle with 1 teaspoon of the oil, turning potatoes to lightly coat. Set the oven timer for 1 hour to cook the potatoes until tender.
3. Meanwhile, spread the chickpeas on a second foil-lined baking sheet. Drizzle with the remaining olive oil and season generously with salt and pepper. Sprinkle with the cumin and toss to coat.
4. When there are about 25 minutes left on the timer for the potatoes, add the chickpeas to the oven. Cook until golden and crisp, stirring once halfway through.
5. Whisk the tahini and lemon juice in a small bowl. Don't worry if the mixture becomes lumpy—you can stir in hot water, 1 tablespoon at a time, until the sauce is smooth and pourable.
6. Carefully slice the potatoes in half lengthwise and drizzle with the tahini sauce. Top each slice with a portion of the crispy chickpeas and season to taste with salt and pepper. Makes 4 servings.

LIFE HACK IMPROVE YOUR HANDWRITING

It's important to be able to write clearly so your words can be easily read by others, including teachers, relatives, and even you! If you'd like to work on your handwriting, first get some inspiration from a friend or family member's handwriting, or the fonts on your computer. Once you have an idea of what you want your handwriting to look like, practice. Start with a blank notebook and commit to writing something every day, such as the alphabet, favorite song lyrics, or journal entries. Take your time to slowly and carefully write each letter the way you want it to look. As you get more experienced, you'll be able to go faster.



ERICA CLARK FOR STONE KITCHEN CREATIVE; GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

Puzzles

Word search

Can you find all these "sound effect" words? They are hidden horizontally, vertically, or diagonally and can be forward or backward. When you're done, read the remaining letters to get a bonus message.

BAM
BEEP
BLAM
BOING
CLUNK
CRACKLE
CREAK
CRUNCH
DING-DONG
HISS
HONK
KABOOM
KERPLUNK
PING
PLINK
PLOP
POOF
SCREECH
SPLAT
SWISH
THUD
THWACK
VROOM
WHACK
WHAM
WHOOSH
ZAP
ZOOM

					S				P									
		I			K	S			N	D					G	P		
		O	N		N	G	I		U	I	G		Z	A	P			
			C	R	U	N	C	H	K	N	I	L	P	O				
		I	S	C	L	K	T	N	I	G	N	I	O	B				
H	C	E	E	R	C	S	V	P	Z	D	A	F	T	M	A	C	E	
	D	F	W	A	P	O	R	W	H	O	O	S	H	R	R	M		
			H	C	T	L	O	H	K	N	O	H	W	E				
		W	A	K	A	B	O	O	M	G	E	M	A	I	S			
	O	U	M	L	P	N	M	P	S	B	D	K	C	S	S	O		
				E	F	K	N	U	L	P	R	E	K			H	P	
			E	L	A		Y	A			L	I	N					
		B	G				M	I				A						
							T						T					

FOUR IN A ROW

Place four of the letters below to complete the first pair of words, in the same order in both words. Use the remaining four letters to complete the second pair of words, in the same order in both words. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

C D F G I R S U

O _ T _ _ _ H
_ E _ V _ _ E

_ _ _ _ E
_ _ N _ I N _

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

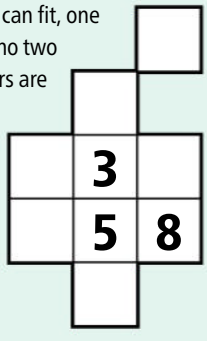
FILL IN THE BLANKS

Fill in the blanks in each sentence with two words so the second word is the same as the first word with one letter changed, like DECODE and DECIDE.

1. After years of vacationing in the same place, my parents felt it was time for a _ _ _ _ _ _ and took a _ _ _ _ _ _ on a place we'd never been before.
2. In math class, everyone was given different varieties of _ _ _ _ _ _ , and we made _ _ _ _ _ _ comparing how many were green, purple, seedless, and seeded.
3. The riding instructor corrected my sister's _ _ _ _ _ _ _ so she would sit tall in the saddle and directed her toward the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ where the other horses were grazing.

Out of order

The numbers 1 to 9 can fit, one per square, so that no two consecutive numbers are in squares that touch in any way, even at a corner. Use the numbers already given to figure out where the rest of the numbers go.

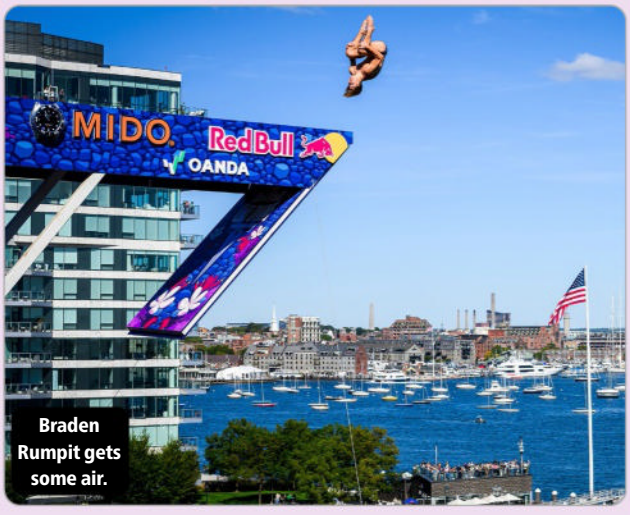


Spot the difference

These two pictures of students reading appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?

PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY

Four in a row hint: The words in the second pair begin with F.



Braden Rumpit gets some air.

Diving for glory in Boston

The Red Bull Cliff Diving World Series leaped to a climax at the world finals on September 19 and 20, when 12 men and 12 women dove off of rooftop platforms at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston, Massachusetts. Fans cheered as athletes jumped from heights of up to 88 feet, performing twists and somersaults in the air before entering the water at more than 50 miles per hour. In the end, high scores from the judges carried Rhiannan Iffland and Gary Hunt to victory. "I've enjoyed every minute," said Iffland.

Hilda Baci spices it up.

Serving up a mondo meal

Jollof rice is one of the most popular dishes in West Africa, with each country claiming its version is the best. Now chef Hilda Baci has celebrated her home country's recipe by cooking up the world's largest serving of Nigerian-style jollof rice. In a giant pot, Baci mixed more than 8,800 pounds of basmati rice, 362 pounds of goat meat, seasonings, and her jollof pepper mix. After nine hours of cooking, 16,000 plates were handed out for people to enjoy. Baci said the record-setting meal was served with "joy, love, and community."

Stadium designers are branching out into new materials.

A stadium made of wood

Japan's first-ever wooden soccer stadium is being built for Fukushima United FC. The 5,000-seat stadium will be constructed with wood from local forests. It will be a symbol of hope for the region after an earthquake in 2011 caused a huge wave, called a tsunami, that swept some buildings away. Its wavy roof, inspired by old thatched houses in the ancient town of Ouchi-juku, is designed to keep soccer fans cool in summer and warm in winter. Each section of the stadium can be taken apart and reused.

Did birds get their cluck-y break?

Farm fowl flaunt their feathers

The chicks went wild during New York Fashion Week, as several handsome hens strutted their stuff at a runway show hosted by Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers. Farmers from across the US escorted their boldest birds to the show, including Dua Cheepa, a rosecomb chicken styled with diamond jewelry, and Buffy Brahma, a fierce fowl who sported a tiny trenchcoat the color of Cane's trademark sauce. "This event blends fashion and food in a fresh, new way," said a spokesperson. Is this story true, or are we ruffling your feathers?*

*Fake! Raising Cane's did hold a runway show at New York Fashion Week, but all of its participants were human . Although no chickens walked the runway, the models dressed in chicken finger–inspired outfits.

ROMINA AMATO/RED BULL CONTENT POOL; GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS; GETTY IMAGES (5); COVER IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2)

Editor's note

Happy National Book Month from *The Week Junior*! To celebrate, we've created a special section of book picks for you (p12). Children often tell us how much they loved a particular book series after they've finished it and then ask us what they should read next. So we've identified eight of the most beloved middle-grade series and suggested "readalikes" that have similar themes, characters, or plots. We hope you find lots of amazing books to read next! Thank you to the children who shared their favorite series with us and the librarians who made such wonderful recommendations. If you find a new book you love, please tell us! Send a photo of you with the book, a few sentences describing it and why you liked it, and your first name, age, and state to *hello@theweekjunior.com.* We may include your submission in a future issue. Happy reading!

Andrea Barbalich
Editorial Director

CHARITY OF THE WEEK

Water.org

This organization's mission is to enable people to have access to clean drinking water. About 785 million people around the world lack this access, putting them at risk for illness and infection. Many others have to travel for miles to collect water that's safe for them to drink. Since its founding in 2009, the group has made it easier for more than 81 million people to get clean water. Find out more at water.org.

Leading a camp for kids

Poppy, 11, California

"This summer, my friends and I ran a one-week summer camp for kids in our neighborhood. We charged a small fee, which we donated to a local nonprofit benefiting families experiencing homelessness. Our campers, ages 3 to 8, enjoyed themed days with crafts, water play, story time, and healthy snacks. The camp brought our community closer together, took pressure off working parents, and helped do some good. We are looking forward to doing it again next year because it was a great way for us to help others."

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at *hello@theweekjunior.com.*

RIDDLE OF THE WEEK
What becomes new as soon as it's broken?
A world record

Apply to join Junior Council!

***The Week Junior* is conducting a national search for 12 students, ages 8 to 14, who want to have their voices heard about the issues and causes that matter to them. This will be our seventh session of Junior Council, and council members will meet directly with *The Week Junior* editors and mentors. There will be about six virtual workshops held from January through May 2026. A project created by council members may appear in a future issue of the magazine. To apply, go to juniorcouncil.theweekjunior.com to download the application. The deadline to enter is October 20.**

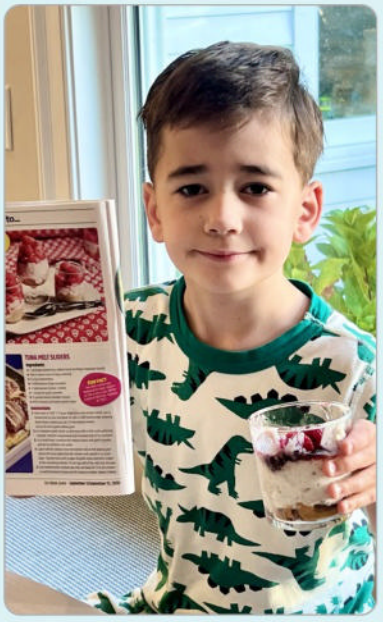
Junior Council THE WEEK Junior

THE WEEK Junior IT'S YOUR TURN Email your news, views, and photos to *hello@theweekjunior.com.*

Your turn

YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*, along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.



"I loved making last week's recipe for PB&J overnight oat parfaits!" Harry, 8, Connecticut

"I was excited when I saw lighthouses in *The Week Junior*. It reminded me of the time I went to Hilton Head and climbed to the top of one!" Akasha, 10, Iowa

"By reading *The Week Junior*, I was inspired to visit the Statue of Liberty in New York City!" Ishan, 10, California

Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Ms. Bielasiak**

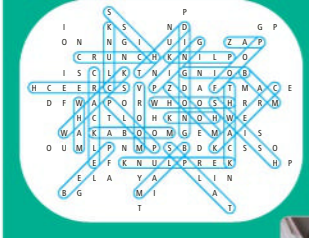
School: **Lafayette Elementary School**

"Ms. Bielasiak gives an unlimited amount of care to all her students. She will help any child when they're having trouble with their work. Ms. Bielasiak is so kind. We always have a chance to shine in her class. There is always some surprise waiting for all of us when we come in on Monday. She spends time with her students and loves kids. Ms. Bielasiak will challenge you and make learning so fun!"

Esha, 10, Washington, DC

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!
Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

Puzzle answers (from page 26)



Word search Unused letters: Ping-Pong is named for the sounds of playing it.

Four in a row
ostrich, service
fudge, funding

Fill in the blanks
1. change, chance
2. grapes, graphs
3. posture, pasture

Quiz answers (from page 30)

1 Neptune **2** True **3** b) Milwaukee Brewers **4** Origami **5** False. It was 2019. **6** c) 1992 **7** True **8** a) Cookie dough **9** Six **10** c) Jollof **11** False. Experts made the pond deeper. **12** Dumbphone **13** b) Maurice Sendak **14** True **15** a) Clutch

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your first name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.

GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: WATER.ORG

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 A rare blue lobster found in Massachusetts was named after which Roman god?

2 True or false? NASA's new class of astronauts is the first one with more women than men.

True ☐ False ☐

3 Which Major League Baseball team finished the regular season with the best record in the league?

a) Los Angeles Dodgers

b) Milwaukee Brewers

c) Philadelphia Phillies

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

4 What ancient Japanese art form has been used for scientific purposes, such as designing space telescopes?

5 True or false? The original production of the stage musical *Beetlejuice* premiered on Broadway in 1988.

True ☐ False ☐

6 When was World Mental Health Day first established?

a) 1972 b) 1982 c) 1992

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

7 True or false? Team Europe won the 2025 Ryder Cup in golf.

True ☐ False ☐

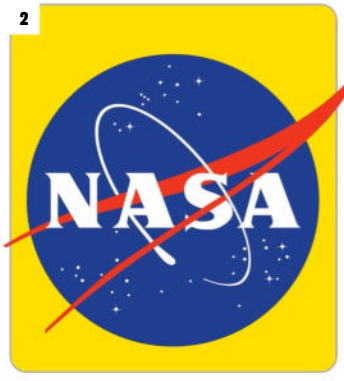
8 Scientists recently made a superfood mixture for honeybees that resembled which human snack?

a) Cookie dough b) Ice cream

c) Peanut butter

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.



9 How many justices served on the US Supreme Court when it was first established in 1789?

10 Nigerian chef Hilda Baci cooked a record-setting serving of which rice dish?

a) Paella

b) Pilaf

c) Jollof

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

11 True or false? Dusky gopher frogs started reproducing at higher rates after experts made a pond shallower.

True ☐ False ☐

12 What is the term for a cell phone without advanced features that was recently added to the Merriam-Webster dictionary?

13 Who illustrated the new picture book version of the fairy tale *Hansel and Gretel*?

a) Beatrix Potter

b) Maurice Sendak

c) Shel Silverstein

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

14 True or false? Bowen Yang was the first main cast member of *Saturday Night Live* to be nominated for an acting Emmy.

True ☐ False ☐

15 What is the name of the bald eagle mascot that will represent the US at the 2026 World Cup?

a) Clutch

b) Maple

c) Zayu

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

THE WEEK Junior

Editorial director: Andrea Barbalich
Executive editor: Mindy Walker
Senior editors: Joey Bartolomeo, Gail O'Connor, Alisa Partlan, Jennifer Li Shotz
Associate editor: Brielle Diskin
Assistant editor: Asha Sridhar
Senior writer: Brandon Wiggins
Staff writer: Felissa Allard
Senior research editor: Douglas Grant
Creative director: Dean Abatemarco
Production director: Paul Kramer
Senior art director: Victoria Beall

Photo editors: Lily Alt, Nataki Hewling
Contributors: Stephanie Abramson, Karen Cicero, Erica Clark, Stacy Cousino, Susie Dent, Truman Devitt, Phoebe Houser, Dave Howard, Joy Howard, Jodi Levine, Puzzability, Melisa Russo, Jordan Zakarin
Managing director, news: Richard Campbell
Brand director, news: Harry Haydon
VP, marketing: Chris Rushe
Senior director, consumer marketing: Leslie Guarnieri
Head of growth marketing: Colleen Shire Ho
Digital marketing director: Katie Hay
Publisher: Stevie Lee (*stevie.lee@futurenet.com*)
Account director: Mary Gallagher (*mary.gallagher@futurenet.com*)
US manufacturing and distribution manager: Lori Crook
Operations manager: Cassandra Mondonedo

Reader submissions: *hello@theweekjunior.com*
Customer service: *TWJcustserv@cdsfulfillment.com*
New subscriptions: TheWeekJunior.com
©2025. All rights reserved. *The Week* and *The Week Junior* are registered trademarks. Neither the whole of this publication nor any part of it may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means without the written permission of the publishers.
The Week Junior (ISSN 2689-9027) is published weekly, except January 3, January 10, July 11, and September 12. *The Week Junior* is published by Future US LLC, 130 West 42nd Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTERS: Send change of address to *The Week Junior,* PO Box 37595, Boone, IA 50037-7595.

FUTURE
Connectors. Creators. Experience Makers.

Future plc is a public company quoted on the London Stock Exchange (symbol: FUTR)
www.futureplc.com

Chief Executive Officer **Kevin Li Ying**
Non-Executive Chairman **Richard Huntingford**
Chief Financial Officer **Sharjeel Suleman**
Tel +44 (0)1225 442 244

ALAMY; MATTHEW MODOONO/NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY; FIFA; GETTY IMAGES (2)

MULTI AWARD WINNING!
SCIENCE + ANIMALS + PUZZLES + PEOPLE + APPS + PHOTOS + BOOKS + SPORTS + PURPLE TOOTHPASTE
THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
Soccer star announces retirement p5
Discover a favorite new book p23
Make and sell tasty lemonade p24
July 28, 2023 · Vol. 4, Issue 171 · $5.99
Making sense of the world
THE WEEK Junior
THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS
OUT OF THIS WORLD
The US space agency celebrates 65 years of exploring the universe p12
NASA
TESTED BY TEACHERS
WE ARE TEACHERS
TEACHER PICKS
2025

Inspire a love of reading

When you give a gift of *The Week Junior*, you inspire a child in your life to explore interests, read about the world around them, and learn something new every week.

Smart, fun, educational. Written for kids ages 8–14. Perfect for birthdays, holidays, or anytime you want to delight a child you love. They'll thank you every week.

Give 25 weekly issues and save 67% off the cover price.

ORDER ONLINE AT
THEWEEKJUNIOR.COM/SPACE
or scan to subscribe →

ADVERTISEMENT

EPIC MYTHS TO DIE FOR!

The New York Times Best Selling Series
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS
GREEKING OUT
AN OFFICIAL PODCAST TIE-IN
TALES FROM THE UNDERWORLD
GHOSTLY MYTHS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE
KENNY CURTIS & JILLIAN HUGHES
ILLUSTRATED BY J. ESPILA

The *New York Times* Bestselling Series

Dig up some spooky, silly stories from around the globe.

BASED ON THE HIT PODCAST!

AVAILABLE WHEREVER BOOKS ARE SOLD.
Discover more at sites.prh.com/national-geographic-kids.

© 2025 National Geographic Partners, LLC

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS